



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE DOYLE

94th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bipartisan Foster Care Legislative Package Passes Senate

The bills will now go to the Governor's desk

MADISON – Yesterday, State Representative Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska) celebrated the passage of eleven of the Foster Forward legislative bills through the Senate. The proposals to support foster parents, prevent abuse and neglect and streamline the termination of parental rights process, among others, all passed the upper house on wide-bipartisan votes. The bills previously passed the State Assembly last week.

“This is an incredible time for children and families in Wisconsin,” said Doyle. “It is wonderful to see that the hard work of so many foster parents, social workers, judges, advocates and stakeholders has paid off.”

The Foster Forward Legislative Agenda came out of the work of the Speaker's Task Force on Foster Care, a bipartisan taskforce made up of Republican and Democratic Assembly members. The task force held five public hearings around the state, including one in La Crosse, before drafting a package of bills.

“When I was first named co-chair of this task force, I wasn't expecting to have anything like this kind of success,” Doyle said. “Often, when a minority member is tapped to help lead a committee, it is seen as a symbolic position and not one with any real power. With the Speaker's Task Force on Foster Care, my co-chair and I have been true partners every single step of the way. We chaired the public hearings together, we drafted the bills together, and we met with stakeholders together. I enjoyed working with Rep. Pat Snyder throughout the entire process.”

The eleven bills which passed both houses of the Legislature will be signed into law soon and Doyle is hoping to have a bill signing ceremony for some of the bills in La Crosse.

“The local foster parents who poured their heart and soul into making these proposals law deserve the chance to celebrate their success,” said Doyle.

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